

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-12 NSC-07 SS-20 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-05

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-04 USIA-15

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DRAFTED BY ARA/LA/EP:RWEBER/SMPRINGLE:BT

APPROVED BY ARA/LA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

EB/ORF/FSE:MWCREEKMORE (DRAFT)

NSC:SLOW (SUBS)

S/S:REWOODS

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P 050112Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220130

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EC, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RODRIGUEZ COMMENTS
ON PRESIDENT FORD'S PETROLEUM STATEMENT

REF: A. QUITO 6313, B. QUITO 6385 C. QUITO 6404

D. QUITO 6427 E. QUITO 6428 F. QUITO 6456

G. STATE 216063

1. WHILE WE APPRECIATE MODERATE TONE OF PRESIDENT
RODRIGUEZ' COMMENTS AS WELL AS YOUR DESIRE FOR PRESIDENTIAL
LETTER RESPONDING IN KIND, WE BELIEVE SEPTEMBER 28 SPEECH
MUST ALSO BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF A) ECUADOREAN MINISTERS
OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS' STRONG DE-
NUNCIATIONS OF STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE
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SECRETARY ON ENERGY (REF. A); B) MINISTER OF NATURAL

RESOURCES' ACTION IN UNDERTAKING CONSULTATION ON POSSIBLE EXTRAORDINARY OPEC SESSION TO RESPOND TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ABOUT OPEC POLICY (EF. B); AND C) PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' QUOTE REJECTION UNQUOTE OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS, ENDORSEMENT OF STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH VIEWS OF VENEZUELA PRESIDENT PEREZ (REF. C). FURTHER, AS EMBASSY POINTS OUT IN REF E, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ ACTUALLY HAD LITTLE TO SAY ON SUBSTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OR THE OIL PROBLEM ASIDE FROM REFERENCE TO QUOTE REASONABLE INCREASE IN THE WORLDWIDE PRICE OF

OF PETROLEUM UNQUOTE. WE NOTE THAT MOST CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECTS OF SPEECH WERE MUTED TREATMENT OF NATIONALISTIC THEMES AND PLACEMENT OF OIL PROBLEM IN CONTEXT OF GENERALLY FAVORABLE COMMENTS CONCERNING STRENGTH OF U.S. SOCIETY AND INSTITUTIONS.

2. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP U.S. POSTURE TOWARD ECUADOR IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL U.S. POLICY ON OIL ISSUE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH OPEC. FACT IS THAT GOE HAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY HEWED TO OPEC LINE IN ALL MATTERS EXCEPT THE BOYCOTT. IN ADDITION, GOE CONTINUES TAKE UNILATERAL ACTIONS HARMFUL TO U.S. ENERGY INTERESTS, E.G. ADA CASE AND DECISIONS WHICH HAVE LED TO REDUCED TEXACO-GULF PRODUCTION. ON PRICE ISSUE, GOE HAS IF ANYTHING INSISTED ON RAISING PRICES EVEN TO ITS OWN DETRIMENT. IN VIEW OF THIS, WE CERTAINLY DO NOT WISH TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ THE IDEA THAT WE ARE IN ANYWAY PLEASED WITH GOE ACTIONS IN ENERGY FIELD.

3. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE TYPE OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE YOU PROPOSE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, WISH TO COMMENT APPRECIATIVELY ON CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' SPEECH WITHIN CONTEXT OF TALKING POINTS ON OIL PROBLEM CONTAINED REF. G. KISSINGER

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